

Tanja Popovic

Tanja Popovic, MD, PhD was named Associate Director for Science in August 2005. Since February 2004, Dr. Popovic has been serving as Acting Associate Director for Science, CDC. Dr. Popovic grew up and was educated in Croatia, a small central European country. With a medical degree, masters in clinical pharmacology, doctorate in microbiology and completed residence in clinical microbiology, she first joined CDC in 1989 as a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow. Since then, she has served as the Chief of the Diphtheria Reference Unit, Chief of the Epidemiologic Investigations/Anthrax Laboratory and Co-director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Prevention and Control of Bacterial Meningitis at the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases. She was a WHO consultant for bacterial meningitis and diphtheria in Russia and throughout Africa. For 6 years, she was CDC lead subject matter expert on laboratory aspects of anthrax. With her staff, she developed laboratory manuals for the National Laboratory Response Network and trained laboratory scientists in all 50 states to isolate and identify *B. anthracis*. She also led laboratory efforts to perform thousands of confirmatory and molecular subtyping tests during the 2001 anthrax investigation.

Dr. Popovic provided key contribution to the FY2004 Health Protection Initiative Program Announcements for extramural research and to establishing the CDC's Office of Public Health Research. She co-chaired the CDC's Futures Initiative Public Health Research Workgroup and Public Health Research Implementation Team. As chair of the Excellence in Science Committee (since February 2004), she has led the committee and raised its cohesiveness and enthusiasm resulting in major contributions to ensure and promote scientific excellence at CDC. Dr. Popovic also chairs the Intragovernmental Committee of the Strategic National Stockpile and is the CDC representative on the Executive Steering Committee of the National Interagency Biodefense Campus. In 2005, she completed an executive leadership course at Harvard's JFK School of Government and is the 2005 graduate of the Public Health Leadership Institute at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Dr. Popovic is widely published and has many scientific accomplishments to her name. Dr. Popovic has authored over 150 scientific publications and book chapters on molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases; she chaired and organized 13, and presented as an invited lecturer at over 50 scientific meetings in 17 countries worldwide. She is an Associate Editor, Emerging Infectious Disease, Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and Associate member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. She has served as the Wachsman Foundation lecturer and received numerous awards for her contributions in the scientific and public health arenas, among them the Secretary of Health's Award for Distinguished Service to the World Trade Center and Anthrax Investigations Emergency Response Team.